


REMARKS

This divisional application is directed to subject matter non-elected pursuant to the restriction requirement in the parent application, Ser. No. 09/979,921.

The amendments do not narrow the scope of the previously restricted invention and were not made for reasons related to patentability. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing and/or divisional applications directed to any subject matter disclosed in the application which has been canceled by any of the above amendments.

Favorable action on the application is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any unresolved matters.

Respectfully submitted,



John A. Sopp, Reg. No. 33,103
Attorney for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO &
BRANIGAN, P.C.
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1, Suite 1400
2200 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Telephone: (703) 243-6333
Facsimile: (703) 243-6410

Attorney Docket No.: MERCK-2322-D01

Date: February 27, 2004

JAS/stm:K:\Merck\2322-D01\PA for div.doc

Abstract

A device for the production of NaDCl_4 , in which D is aluminum or iron, where, in a first reaction step, a melt of aluminum or iron is reacted with chlorine gas to give gaseous metal halide, and this is subsequently reacted, in a second reaction step, with solid sodium chloride to give the corresponding compound and is separated off as a melt.